



**UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
REGION III
1650 Arch Street
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19103-2029**

Mr. George Hartenstein, Director
Bureau of Environmental Cleanup and Brownfields
Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection
Rachel Carson State Office Building
400 Market Street, 14th Floor
Harrisburg, Pennsylvania 17105-8471

Dear Mr. Hartenstein:

On June 16th, 2015, the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (PADEP) Division of Storage Tanks and Site Remediation Division had a meeting with EPA's Office of State Programs to discuss mid-year progress towards meeting FY2015 goals. EPA confirms that PADEP is on track to meet their commitments for FY2015 in both the prevention and cleanup programs. Your staff had the opportunity to review this letter and provide comments.

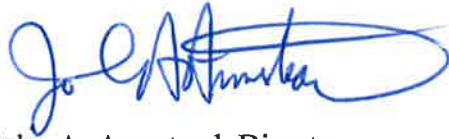
In FY2015, PADEP achieved significant operational compliance (SOC) rates of 84% for release detection, 85% for release prevention, and 75% for combined, which exceeds the national goal. PADEP has completed 1491 inspections so far this year, which includes both 3rd party and state-led inspections. The third party inspection program has an inspection frequency of 2.67 years this mid-year, which exceeds the federal mandate of inspecting each UST every three years.

The leaking underground storage tank (LUST) program has completed 201 cleanups during the first half of FY15, and is on track to meet the annual goal of 339 cleanups. PADEP is on track to meet the national backlog goal of 15% for FY2015, and should be commended for its efforts on substantially reducing its relative backlog rate. The overall backlog rate has dropped from 16% in FY2012 to 12%, which is a 25% reduction in the relative backlog rate. In addition, EPA appreciates PADEP's interest in the Making a Visible Difference Initiative, and looks forward to a potential collaboration with PADEP to close open LUST sites in Reading, Pennsylvania.

PADEP's LUST QAPP was approved by EPA October 2012, and is due to be revised again in October 2017. The QMP was approved by EPA January 2011, and is due to be revised again January 2016. EPA looks forward to working with PADEP on revising the QMP. Finally, while PADEP's UST QAPP is still under development, EPA appreciates PADEP's interest in developing it in the near future, and potentially integrating it with the LUST QAPP.

I thank your office for its continued productivity in implementing the UST and LUST programs. If you have any questions regarding this letter, please contact Donna Weiss, Acting Associate Director for the Office of State Programs, at (215) 814-2198 or weiss.donna@epa.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "John A. Armstead", with a large, sweeping flourish at the end.

John A. Armstead, Director
Land & Chemicals Division

Electronic cc: W. Harner, PADEP
K. Shiffer, PADEP
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Office of State Programs:

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CONCURRENCES							
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DATE	<	6/29/15	FN 6-29-15	KL 6/30/15	Apr 6/30/15	May 7-1-15	